LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery, which is composed mainly of fine glass fibers and also contains inorganic powder, beaten natural pulp, and heat-weldable organic fibers, wherein the heat-weldable organic fibers have a fineness of 1.5d (deniers) or less and a fiber length of 1 mm or more, and the amount of the heat-weldable organic fibers is from 3% to 15% by weight.

2. (Original) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of the inorganic powder is from 5% to 30% by weight and the amount of the natural pulp is from 2% to 15% by weight.

3. (Currently Amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the fine glass fiber is acid resistant glass fiber having a mean fiber diameter of 2.0 m or less.

4. (Currently Amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein the inorganic powder is a silica powder having a specific surface area of 100 m2/g or more.

5. (Currently Amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, wherein the natural pulp is beaten to the extent of 250 mL or less in the Canadian freeness.

6. (Currently Amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein the fineness of the heat-weldable organic fibers is from 0.5d to 1.5d and the fiber length of the heat-weldable organic fibers is from 1 mm to 10 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) A separator for a valve regulated lead acid

battery as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~ claim 1, wherein the density of the separator is from 0.15 g/cm^3 to 0.18 g/cm^3.

8. (Currently Amended) A valve regulated lead acid battery including a separator for a valve regulated lead acid battery as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1.